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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: February 6, 1979

SUBJECT : Prison Conditions and Human Rights

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. Esther Hinofoza, Aunt of Liliانا Vogler, U.S. High Interest Prisoner, Held in Villa Devoto Prison
Mr. F. Allen Harris, Political Officer, American Embassy
Buenos Aires

COPIES TO :	ARA/ECA	- Mr. Brayshaw	AMB	ECOM
	HA/HR	- Mr. Flood	DCM	DAO
	INR/RAR	- Mr. Buchanan	POL	SY
	ARA	- Mr. Lister	POL/R	
	INR/OIL/NFAC	- Mr. Gresham	USICA	

Liliana Vogler provided the following information to her aunt, Mrs. Hinofoza:

Prison Conditions in Villa Devoto

During the Christmas period (roughly December 22 through mid-January) prisoners in Miss Vogler's cell block were accorded unheard-of privileges: they were permitted to sing and put on a play, stay up until midnight each night, and on January 6 those in her pavilion were allowed to circulate freely and talk to their friends within the cell block. During this period, the prison commissary stocked canned fruit for the prisoners. Miss Vogler could not believe the change in treatment accorded to her group. (Note: The female prisoners in Villa Devoto are broken into three groups: Group 1, which has television privileges and are allowed to sew and knit; Group 2, of which Miss Vogler is a member, are mostly ideological prisoners and called in prison jargon "irrecuperables"; Group 3, called "Las Pesadas" (the heavies), women believed to have participated in some form of armed terrorism.)

Prisoner treatment changed radically in mid-January. All prisoners in the cell block were forced to undergo a complete search including vaginal examination (Note: The prisoners were searched by male guards.) and a complete search was made of all the cells. Those prisoners, including Miss Vogler, who refused the vaginal examination by the guards were sent to the punishment cells. Many items were confiscated, including a Christmas tree constructed by the cell block members out of bread, and spools of colored sewing thread (only black and white thread are allowed).

Prison visits were stopped from December 22, 1978 through January 8 because the prison authorities felt they could not handle the crush of visitors, especially from the interior of the country during the Christmas period.

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Reappearances

Two long time desaparecidas have been placed in Liliana Vogler's cell block. Mrs. Hinojosa did not reveal their names. Both reported that they were held for over a year in a detention camp in the country with a number of Uruguayans. They alleged that they were constantly sexually used by the guards. One of the girls became pregnant and believes she was released from the clandestine detention facility to have her baby. The women alleged that very sophisticated forms of torture were used against the camp's prisoners including removal of pieces of skin from various parts of the body. The women alleged that when they were moved from the country detention camp they were taken to a police station where they were very well fed and cared for. When they were presentable, they were taken to Villa Devoto Prison.

Physical Abuse

Liliana Vogler reported that another of her cell mates, a woman from Rosario asserts that she was raped in a detention facility in Rosario in front of her husband to force him to confess his connections with the terrorists. Her husband is incarcerated in Sierra Chica Prison.

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

POLCOUNS:WHHallman

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